

COVID-19 Employee Testing 10/2022

Departments:	Date Implemented:	Date Reviewed/Revised:	Implementation Date:	Approved By:	Related Regulations:
All	12/15/2022	10/09/2022, 6/17/2021, 10/07/2022	12/15/2022	Carol Erhart, LNHA Karen McGhee, MD Karen Black, DON	F-880

Karen Black, DON 12/19/22

Purpose:

The Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) will take every step necessary to limit the potential of COVID-19 reaching our residents.

Policy:

It is the DVH goal to minimize exposures and transmission of COVID-19 pathogens within the facility by promptly identifying Health Care Personnel (HCP) with asymptomatic/pre-symptomatic cases via routine point-of-care (POC) testing.

An HCP who has previously resulted positive for COVID-19 is exempt from this policy/testing for 30 days from diagnosis.

Definitions:

“HCP” (Health Care Practitioners) as defined for this policy includes all DVH staff, vendors, and volunteers.

“Vendor” is defined as any individual who is not employed by the facility but either enters the building for more than 15 minutes or has contact with a resident or staff member for more than 15 minutes e.g., Hospice, Home Health, Ombudsman, Surveyors, Medical Directors, X-Ray/Lab Technicians, Respiratory/Physical/Speech/Occupational Therapists, Students, etc.

“Close contact” refers to someone, regardless of vaccination status or the presence of PPE, who has been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

“Outbreak” is a new COVID-19 infection in any HCP or resident.

“Up to Date” is an individual that has received the two (2) initial vaccines, and the most recent booster.

Process:

- 1 At the very least, DVH will follow the minimum guidelines set by CMS/CDC/DPHL on 09/23/22, however, the frequency of testing performed by DVH may be altered based on specific recommendation of the Delaware Department of Health. *DVH may also implement more frequent testing if DVH so desires and regardless of vaccination status.
- 2 The facility will screen all HCPs upon entrance to the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- 3 All HCP's will be required to test each visit using a nasal rapid POC test. If positive HCP will be sent home to self-isolate for 7-10 days or as recommended by CDC/CMS/DPH. DPH will be notified of positive result.
- 4 All resident visitors will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and encouraged to test using a nasal rapid POC test.

- 5 The facility will conduct testing using nasal rapid point-of-care (POC) diagnostic testing devices in-house and/or through an arrangement with the Delaware Public Health Laboratory (DPHL).
- 6 Prior to testing, all HCP's will be required to complete a consent form to release laboratory test results to the facility and to the Department of Health.
- 7 Anyone with even mild symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should notify their immediate supervisor and receive a viral test as soon as possible.
- 8 All testing will be completed by trained HCP following the manufacturer instructions.
- 9 Outbreak testing will begin immediately upon identification of a single new case of COVID-19 in the facility as outlined by CMS/CDC guidelines.
- 10 It is a condition of employment that everyone be tested. Any HCP who refuses testing, refuses to sign consent, or withdraws consent may not be allowed to work at DVH (vendor/volunteer) and will be sent home in an unpaid status until they are tested. A continual refusal to be tested could result in disciplinary action.
- 11 Valid documentation of a positive COVID-19 will be requested if testing/results are completed outside of the facility. This will consist of a clinically signed or original lab test result; home test results are not acceptable. The facility will facilitate testing as needed.
- 12 An absence related to an acute COVID-19 diagnosis will not be used against the HCP for the purpose of the DVH Attendance Policy. A doctor's note will be necessary if the HCP is unable to return to work in the time frame expected.
- 13 HCP who does not follow this policy may be held accountable by disciplinary action.

Conducting Testing

1. Specimens will be collected, processed, and, if necessary, stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for use for the test and CDC guidelines.
2. The facility will maintain proper infection control and use recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) to process COVID-19 tests.
3. The facility will clean, disinfect, and maintain the testing area and maintain testing equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
4. POC results will be available in 10-15 minutes. Results from specimens sent out to the DPHL should be received from 1-3 days. HCP who test positive for COVID-19 will be subject to up to a 10-day self-isolation and will be exempt from testing for the following 30 days from the date of their positive test. If there is contingent or emergency staffing issues at DVH, the 10-day self-isolation period may be reduced. DVH is not acting as the HCP or vendor medical provider; each HCP is responsible to seek their own medical treatment.

Reporting Test Results

1. The facility conducting testing is required to have a CLIA certificate and are subject to regulations that require laboratories to report results for all testing completed, for everyone tested, to state or local health departments.
2. The facility will report COVID-19 information to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) weekly.

References:

- Emergency Regulations from DHSS-Division of Health Care Quality for 3201 Skilled and Intermediate Care Nursing Facilities (6/1/20)
- Division of Public Health (DPH) Testing Guidance for Long-Term Care Facilities (9/30/20)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. *QSO-20-38-NH Interim Final Rule (IFC), CMS-3401-IFC, Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency related to Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Testing Requirements (March 10, 2022)*
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2*. Located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>. Accessed. January 21, 2022.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic*. Located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>. Access February 2, 2022.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes*. Located at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>. Accessed February 2, 2022.

Retired/Archived

Employee Testing 06/17/21

Primary Testing Facility Designation for Mandatory Recurring Staff Testing for Long-Term Care Facilities

Author

COVID-19 Committee